

SOFTBALL MECHANICS 2026

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“Every day you either get better or you get worse. You never stay the same”

Bo Schembechler

PLATE UMPIRE

- Get out on fly balls (assuming no plate responsibilities)
 - Trail batter runner up first base line (be in position to help on appeals and watch for possible batter runner interference)
 - Take base runner into third when partner is in B (3 scenarios)
 - Work the wedge
 - Help on rundowns (assuming no responsibilities)

BASE UMPIRE “C” POSITION

- Set up between SS & 3B square to plate
- Keep all baserunners in your vision
- Tag into 3B work your way in and read play
- Try to give second set of eyes on trouble balls/home run balls
- Work the rim if need be
- Close down the distance on play at first base
- Watch for obstruction/interference
- Double Tag
- Look back rule
- Partner has pick off at 1B

BASE UMPIRE “B” POSITION

- Square to home, see baserunner at 1B
- Cheat a bit and set up off right shoulder of second baseman
- Delay your call on steal attempt to make sure fielder has possession and no over slide happens
- Watch for obstruction/interference
- Ball is out you are in
- Try to give second set of eyes on trouble balls/home run balls

BASE UMPIRE “A” POSITION

- Start about 12-15 feet past first baseman in foul territory, walking in two steps with pitch
- Watch infield throws to make sure they are on-line and adjust accordingly
- Set yourself and delay call until play is completed
- Watch for obstruction/interference

BASE UMPIRE “A” POSITION

- Bunt in front of plate, move up to almost even with first base
- Ground ball to right side might push you into foul territory
- Line-drive single to right field you can J-cut into the infield or foul territory
- Go out on ball down right field line, trouble ball, home run ball. Partner will take runner into second base and you rotate back for possible play at home.

SUGGESTIONS

- Say “TIME” to stop play for hit by pitch, interference, ball out of play, etc.
- Hustle around field to get in position. It will be noticed and appreciated
- Delay, delay, delay
- Less is more

